

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS BRANCH

15 December 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, COLLECTION BRANCH

Request from War Crimes Office for Original Documents in Japanese.

1. Subject request was first received informally from Mr. Nestle, CAD, Department of the Army. Informal telephonic status check was later made by [redacted] Collection Branch, OCD. No collection directive on this request has been received to date by Foreign documents Branch.

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2. Informal request was not specific. Request was made only for a telegram from CINC China Expeditionary Force to Minister of War (Japan) dated 25 April 1942. This is the only information that has been supplied on requested Japanese document.

3. In order to locate this document it would be necessary for personnel of Foreign Documents Branch to screen thoroughly 70,000 unprocessed Japanese war records. These records have from 200 to 300 reports and telegrams per volume. Thus it can be seen that it would be necessary to scan 14,000,000 documents in order to locate telegram requested.

4. If collection directive is authorized and action approved it is estimated that it would take four qualified Japanese linguists up to six months to locate this document.

5. It is recommended by this branch that requestor be informed of details and that no further action be requested.

[redacted]
Colonel, FA,
Chief, Foreign Documents Branch.

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